

DILIGENCE

SHORE TIES



Edition 05-03
November 2005

*Puerto Rico
To
Key West, FL...*



"Down down all lines, up up all fish, now fish call for the crew!"



ET2 Erik Sears and OS2 Deloise Moore receive their second class petty officer crowns.



BMI Vanwormer and BMC Brown "pin" first class petty officer crowns onto BMI John Holmes.



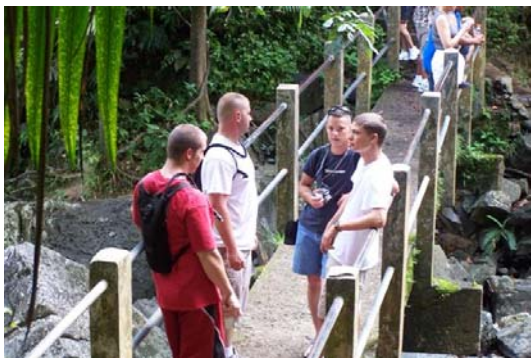
FS3 Ingram, FS3 Wilhite, and SN Hauhe assist the Captain in serving his famous lasagna.



ET1 Rodney Starling is congratulated by the Captain after being advanced to first class petty officer.



A regular sight - the beach muscle crew getting pumped up on the fantail.



← MK2 Dowling, MK1 Conley, MK1 Maples, and FN Diedricks take a trip to the rainforest in Puerto Rico.

The four new LTJGs, Matt Jewczyn, Chris Weber, Brian Lied and Derek Storolis, → celebrate their promotion in Key West.



← Part of Deck Department poses for a shot during a San Juan special sea detail.



SK1 Chris Grey and IT2 Justin Gagnon → attempt to gain control of the hose during a recent training exercise.



← ET1 Matt Gemborys gauges his next jump during a swim call.



OPERATIONS



On October 15th, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter DILIGENCE departed Wilmington, NC, destined for the 90-degree waters of the Caribbean Sea. DILIGENCE spent the first several days patrolling for Haitian migrants in the Windward Pass - the triangular mass of water between Cuba, Haiti and the Bahamas. Upon transiting to the Puerto Rico operational area (a.k.a. Sector San Juan), DILIGENCE pulled into San Juan on October 26th for her first port call. After two days of rest and relaxation, the ship went back to work and sped over to the Mona Pass, the area of water between Dominican Republic (DR) and Puerto Rico, and began to patrol for DR migrants and vessels attempting to smuggle drugs into Puerto Rico. While patrolling in these waters, DILIGENCE responded to two search and rescue (SAR) cases, conducted one boarding, and repatriated 95 DR citizens back to Santo Domingo, DR. Additionally, within the first two weeks of the patrol, DILIGENCE conducted over 100 helicopter evolutions, allowing several crewmembers to receive the extra monthly "flight pay". Patrolling in the Mona Pass ended with a mid-patrol break in Santo Domingo, where DILIGENCE repatriated the 95 DR migrants.

After the out-of-country port call in Santo Domingo, DILIGENCE steamed toward the Florida Straits to conduct Cuban migrant operations. Despite the windier than normal conditions in the Florida Straits, 15 Cuban migrants have crossed the ship's decks in the past several days. In addition to handling migrants, DILIGENCE conducted two law enforcement

boardings. The second boarding occurred after the Coast Guard received a distress call from 2 persons onboard a 30ft vessel. The engines had quit, and the vessel was dead in the water, many miles from land. Treating the boarding as a SAR case, the boarding team went onboard and discovered that the vessel was more than likely involved in migrant smuggling. Without the necessary proof to prosecute the persons onboard, the boarding team waited on scene with the vessel until a commercial tow arrived. In the ensuing week, DILIGENCE will continue to patrol the Florida Straits looking for unseaworthy migrant crafts, illegal drug smugglers, and vessels in need of assistance.

BM1 Holmes drives the small boat while→
transferring migrants onto the ship.



← Pictured in the background is a 110 ft
patrol boat from San Juan in the process
of transferring 95 Dominican Republic
migrants to DILIGENCE.

Our two rescue swimmers, BM3 Rob →
Simpson and SN Chris Ensley, pose for
shot after a man overboard drill.



← Two of our fearless leaders, LT Matt
Moyer (OPS) and LCDR Virkaitis (XO),
look on during helicopter operations.



← Crewmembers handle a charged hose during a Damage Control training evolution.

MK2 Dowling, BM3 Simpson, SN Custis, and MK3 Scheid after a drill. →



← DILIGENCE's small boat making its way toward a vessel in need of assistance, one of the three SAR cases during our patrol.

DILIGENCE pulling into Santo Domingo to offload the 95 Dominican Republic → migrants. The gray building shown in the background is the old house of Christopher Columbus.



← While operating in the Mona Pass, DILIGENCE anchors off the west side of Puerto Rico.

NEW-BORNS

Over the past couple of months, several crewmembers have had newborn babies - for four of them it was their first child.

Father: HS2 Dan Garcia
Mother: Shannon Garcia
Boy or Girl: Boy
Baby's name: Brandon Edward Garcia
Date of Birth: April 21st, 2005



Father: ET2 Erik Sears
Mother: Jennifer Lee Sears
Boy or Girl: Girl
Baby's name: Nalani Louise Sears
Date of Birth: September 16th, 2005
*Nalani is their first child.



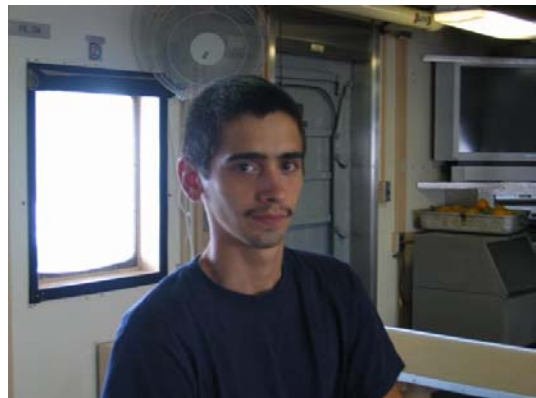
Father: MK2 Tom Arnold
Mother: Raegan Arnold
Boy or Girl: Boy
Baby's name: Wyatt Christopher Arnold
Date of Birth: October 10th, 2005



Father: EM3 Charles Miller
Mother: Danielle Morgan
Boy or Girl: Girl
Baby's name: Helaina Rose Miller
Date of Birth: September 14th, 2005
*Helaina is their first child.



Father: FS3 Christopher Wilhite
Mother: Amber Kay Wilhite
Boy or Girl: Girl
Baby's name: Ashley Rose Wilhite
Date of Birth: September 8th, 2005
*Amber is their first child.



Father: SN Joseph White (far left side of the picture)
Mother: Emily White
Boy or Girl: Girl
Baby's name: Tristen Averie White
Date of Birth: October 21st, 2005
*Tristen is their first child.



FROM THE BRIDGE WING

Dear Friends and Families of DILIGENCE,



As we approach the beginning of the “holiday season,” the DILIGENCE crew winds down from another patrol with less than a week to go! Our patrol has been quite busy with either external events, such as caring for illegal migrants interdicted at sea, or completion of required drills and training, such as helicopter operations, emergency drills, and even a gunshoot. Our travels have been extensive; covering a vast geographic area from Wilmington to Cuba/Haiti, across the southern side of Haiti/Dominican Republic to San Juan, Puerto Rico, from the Mona Passage (between Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico) all the way back west and north to the waters off Key West, Florida. We also had a close call with Tropical Storm Alpha, but successfully avoided contact with it after changing direction twice. So far we have patrolled over 5,500 nautical miles!

Our port calls have been diverse and provided a unique change of pace for the crew. San Juan, Puerto Rico is a historical port with the ambiance of a tropical foreign country, yet with most of the amenities of the U.S, since it is a U.S. territory. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic provided much of what a foreign Caribbean port call has to offer for a crew: tropical weather, sightseeing of the oldest buildings ever built in the Western Hemisphere, such as the oldest church and Christopher Columbus’ house (built in the early 1500s), and fairly cheap food and drink.

We represented the U.S. with great pride and generosity in Santo Domingo. DILIGENCE moored there with 92 Dominican and 3 Haitian migrants onboard. They had been rescued at sea by a CG patrol boat and transferred to us in the Mona Passage. After safely and professionally transferring the migrants to Dominican officials, we hosted the Deputy U.S. Ambassador and several senior Dominican Naval officers for a press conference, tours, and dinner in the wardroom. The Engineering Dept. assisted the Dominican Navy with advice and repairs to several of their ships, and our duty sections gave tours to U.S. Embassy employees and their families and tours to Dominican Naval Academy cadets.

All in all, so far, we’ve accomplished quite a bit: Cared for and processed/repatriated 115 illegal migrants comprising 3 nationalities; responded to 3 search and rescue cases; conducted 3 law enforcement boardings; conducted dozens of navigation and damage control drills; fired 710 rounds of ammunition during our gunnery exercise; and conducted 90 helicopter landings and a dozen other helicopter evolutions, such as in flight refueling. We calculated that it took approximately 14 million revolutions of our propellers to push us through 5500 miles of water and that the pistons in the engines moved up and down approximately 800 million times to make it happen!

DILIGENCE has been without television for most of the patrol. When we finally got back within the range of our satellite coverage, we were reminded by the weather reports that we are in a different world than most of our families to the north. As we watched temperatures dipping close to or even below freezing in some areas, we realized how nice it was to remain dressed in DILIGENCE t-shirts with temperatures in the 80s. We had a swim call just over a week ago in 87-degree water!

There is no doubt, that even in this warm climate, the Crew is ready to come home. DILIGENCE has been the “go to” cutter in several busy CG regions for many weeks now. You can all be so proud that your special member of the DILIGENCE crew has made a significant contribution to the cutter’s great success and to the American public. There are no unimportant jobs or unimportant people on the DILIGENCE team! I remain extremely proud and honored to serve with this prestigious group of people who display the highest levels of professionalism and dedication and who work day in and day out in difficult, dangerous conditions with untiring enthusiasm.

Thank you all for your continued support. You are what keep us all going out here. We wish you all a happy Thanksgiving, and we will be thinking of you with visions of our homecoming up the Cape Fear River just a few days ahead.

Best Regards,
CDR Tony Gentilella

Quote: “A group of two hundred executives were asked what makes a person successful. Eighty percent listed enthusiasm as the most important quality.”



We'll be home soon!

Editor - LTJG Chris Weber

*Photographers - CDR Gentilella, LTJG Matthew Jewczyn, LTJG Chris Weber, MK1
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*Questions or comments? Please email
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suggestions!*